

**OPSEU Local 560
Your Seneca College
Faculty Union**

Jan 14, 2015

Contact your union at:
union@opseu560.org
or
416-495-1599
http://opseu560.org



Use a Pass Phrase

Codes are cracked, machines are hacked, and only a password may stand between your important data and its fraudulent use. The problem with passwords, however, is that if they're easy to remember, they're easy to crack. While we're often encouraged to use something complicated like ?!Wxv7c0M#J9, it's so difficult to remember you're likely to write it down. And that's worse!

Instead, use a memorable passphrase. A mnemonic passphrase has personal meaning so it's easy for you to remember, but difficult for someone else to guess. Maybe your first dog was Charlie, and you got him for Xmas in 1982. This could become the passphrase 28MfdwCX!91. Use different passwords for different online services. Add other mnemonics to come up with unique passphrases that are still easy to remember:

Twit28MfdwCX!91
28MfdwCX!91Lnkd

THE LOCAL

EXPRESS

Compromised System Security

Recently there was an incident of hacking into the My Seneca site by some students at S@Y. We have a real concern that it is too easy to discover an employee's user name and password, particularly when we log onto Blackboard in class. It is very easy to expose your password if you miss tabbing into the password field, and if the overhead projector is on, the revealed password can be seen by students.

Once someone is logged into My Seneca, personnel payroll information, banking and SIN numbers are easily accessed.

We are working with the college to improve security and follow up on this incident. In the meantime, we suggest you take extra care when logging into the system. You may want to file a help request with IT (servicedesk@senecacollege.ca) to have your home address, SIN number, and banking information removed from the site.

Be sure your password conforms to good security practices, and that you never write it down or include it in an email. Never tell your password(s) to anyone, even if these individuals claim to be official. Legitimate companies and services will never ask for your password.

If you have any concerns about security of your personal information, talk to your area steward, to the Chief Steward Larry Olivo at lolivo@opseu560.org or to the union at union@opseu560.org.